(b) if so, whether ISI has established a formidable network in India;

(c) whether the Government of India have permitted ISI to set up such centres in various parts; and

(d) if not, the policy of Government to smash such centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that Pak ISI is involved in aiding, abetting and supporting terrorism in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) In order to deal with the situation, Government have adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of ISI which includes strengthening the border management, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of ISI by well coordinated intelligence based operations, setting up of out-posts of security forces in vulnerable areas and modernization and upgradation of police security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc.

Central Government has also been sensitizing the State Governments about the threat perception and activities of ISI in the country. Periodic coordination meetings are also held with the State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters as well as for devising strategies to counter such activities. Various security agencies belonging to the Union and States have been working together to check the activities of ISI. As a result of coordinated action, a number of ISI backed modules have been neutralized.

Terrorists plan to kidnap important personalities

672. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Samana' dated the 31 st January, 2002 that terrorists have plan to abduct the world famous Indian Cricketers Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly and Scientist Abdul Kalam;

(b) if so, whether this news is correct or not; and

(c) the details of the steps Government have taken/propose to take to spoil their plan and protect the above important personalities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per intelligence reports, the terrorists had plans to assassinate Dr. A.RJ. Abdul Kalam and abduct Cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly.

(c) The security arrangements in respect of the threatened persons have been reviewed and the concerned State Governments have been advised to strengthen the security arrangements and appropriately sensitize the security personnel deployed for their security.

Benefits of dual citizenship

673. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries where dual citizens would be applicable;

(b) the benefits likely to accrue to such NRIs; and

(c) when would it be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c)The Government has not decided to grant dual citizenship.

Proposal for New Prison Act

674. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to bring a new Prison Act replacing Century Old Indian Prison Act, 1894; and

(b) if so, the details and by when it is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per entry 4 of List II (State List), of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. According to article 246 (3), Legislature of any State has exclusive power to make laws for such State or any part thereof with respect to any of the matters